



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER  
AND FORT POLK  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

***Press Release***

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION*

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### 1st Battalion (ABN) 509th Infantry Change of Command

FORT POLK, La. - The 1st Battalion (ABN) 509th Infantry, will receive a new commander during a ceremony at 9 a.m., Tuesday, June 19 at Honor Field, here.

The colors and command of the 1/509th Infantry will pass from Lieutenant Colonel John King to Lieutenant Colonel Darron L. Wright.

The 1/509th Infantry, known as the Geronimo, is one of the Army's most elite units. As a parachute infantry unit highly trained in all levels of combat, they also serve as the standing Opposing Force at the Joint Readiness Training Center, where its full-time mission is portraying the enemy for all units who train at the Joint Readiness Training Center.

King, a North Carolina native, received his commission in the Infantry from Campbell University and graduated with a Bachelors of Science in History in 1987.

Wright, a Texas native, graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelors of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He was commissioned into the US Army in 1988 and as a as a Second Lieutenant.

Wright's last assignment was with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division in Ft Hood, TX as the Brigade executive officer.

King has been reassigned to serve as the 1st BCT, 101st Air Assault Deputy Commander.

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Media wishing to cover the ceremony should contact Samantha Evans at (337) 531-4630. Bios attached.

Bios:

### **Lieutenant Colonel John King**

Lt. Col. John King received his commission in the Infantry from Campbell University and graduated with a Bachelors of Science in History in 1987.

King's assignments include: Rifle Platoon Leader and Battalion staff positions with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry, held Brigade staff positions with 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Polk, LA. Company Commander with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, HI along with Assistant S3 and other staff positions with 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Held Observer Controller positions at the Platoon, Company and Brigade levels while assigned to Operations Group, Joint Readiness Training Center, Ft Polk, LA. Held positions in 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division to include 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade S1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Operations Officer for SFOR 10, Bosnia, Deputy G3, and 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Operations Officer for OEF IV, Afghanistan. His last assignment was with the Ranger Training Brigade as the Executive Officer at Ft Benning, Ga. King's next assignment will be as the 1st BCT, 101st Air Assault Deputy Commander.

King is a graduate of the U.S. Army Basic Training School, Fort Leonard, Missouri, Infantry Officers Basic and Advance Course, Airborne School, Ranger School, Jumpmaster Course, Bradley Leaders Course, Combined Arms Service and Staff School, Command and General Staff College. He holds a Masters of Arts in the Humanities from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

King's awards and decorations include; The Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf cluster, Army Superior Unit Award, (Panama), National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Bosnia), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal, Global War on Terrorism Service medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal for Bosnia, and the French National Defense Medal for Afghanistan. He wears the Ranger Tab, Senior Parachutist Wings, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, and German Jump Wings.

King is from Rockingham, N.C. and is married with two children.

## **Lieutenant Colonel Darron L. Wright**

Lt. Col. Darron L. Wright, a Texas native, was commissioned into the US Army in 1988 and as a 2LT. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of North Texas.

Wright's assignments include: Rifle Platoon Leader, Rifle Company executive officer (XO) and Rifle Company Commander with the 3rd Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, Ft. Ord, CA; Rifle Co. Commander of Charlie Co 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion (Airborne), 325 Infantry Regiment, 82d Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, NC; Commander, Echo Company 313th Military Intelligence Battalion, Long Range Surveillance Detachment, Ft. Bragg, NC; Chief of Operations for 7th Infantry Division, Ft. Carson, CO; Brigade S-1, 3d BCT, 4th Infantry Division, Ft. Carson, CO; Battalion S-3 and Battalion XO for the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, Ft. Carson, CO.

Wright's last assignment was with the 4th BCT, 4th Infantry Division in Ft Hood, TX as the Brigade XO.

Wright is a graduate of the Infantry Officers Basic and Advance Courses, Airborne School, Ranger School, The Air Assault Course, The Supply Service Management Officer's Course, Bradley Commander Course, Jumpmaster Course, Combined Arms Service and Staff School, Command and General Staff College and The Naval College Command and Staff school. He holds a Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from The Naval War College, Newport RI.

Wright's awards and decorations include; The Bronze Star with "V" Device; Bronze Star (2nd Award); Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal two oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon. He wears the Ranger Tab, Senior Parachutist Wings, Air Assault Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Expert Infantryman Badge.

Wright is married and has two children.